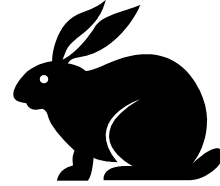


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**“Easter Pets”**

The San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program would like to ask the public's help this Easter by reminding residents to please not give pets as presents. Too often, fluffy baby bunnies, fuzzy chicks, and cute little ducklings are bought and given as Easter pets with no thought of the responsibility of caring for them. Most of these animals suffer and die within a week or two due to improper care and handling. Those who do live are usually soon unwanted as they grow larger, wilder, noisier, and messier. Remember, fluffy baby bunnies grow up to be big rabbits, fuzzy chicks grow up to be chickens, and cute little ducklings grow up to be big ducks. You may be able to cuddle with these animals when they are young, but what you need to ask is are you really going to want to cuddle with a chicken? If you are not ready to care for these pets for the rest of their lives, then please do not contribute to this problem by buying them. Every year, animal shelters experience an increase in rabbit, chicken, and duck surrenders because people did not think through their decisions. Remember, being a pet owner means you are making a commitment to take care of that animal for the rest of its life. If you have questions or need more information, please call the San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control Program toll free at 1-800-472-5609.

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